

# Candidate for police chief stresses openness

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## DUXBURY

DUXBURY — Boston police Sgt. Mark DeLuca told Duxbury residents last night that if he is appointed the town's police chief, communication will be the key to his success.

"Communication is very important between different departments," DeLuca said. "In a small town like this, a good leader can make a great impact."

After a day filled with meetings with town officials, DeLuca met with residents in town hall to answer their questions in the final phase of his interview.

DeLuca and Milton police Lt. Robert Galvin are the two finalists for the police chief job. They were picked from a pool of 65 applicants. Galvin was interviewed Monday.

The person who is chosen will succeed Charles Mazzone, who resigned in December

for health reasons.

The next chief will be paid \$58,000 to \$70,000 a year, Town Manager Rocco Longo said.

Longo has been working with a six-member team of residents and town officials in the search for a new chief.

Last night, DeLuca was asked about his background and what he would do to be a successful chief.

DeLuca, 40, said having an open-door policy would not only help him solve problems but enable him to identify problems before they become major.

Asked how Duxbury could avoid the type of school violence that has been in the news recently, DeLuca said students and the police

should be in closer contact.

"I want to have schools set up anger-management classes and offer more counseling," he said. "Odd behavior should not go undetected."

DeLuca also wants to put safety officers in schools to help develop a feeling of trust between the officers and students and make communication between them easier. He said officers being in contact with students also helps make the DARE program a success.

He said he applied for the job in Duxbury because "In an atmosphere like this I can get things done and make a real difference, which sometimes is not the case in Boston, where you feel like you're just a number."

If he is hired, changes will start the first day, DeLuca said. One change would be to make sure that every police shift has a supervisor, which now is not the case.

He also would meet with everyone under his command to let them know what is expected of them, and to find out what they expect of him and what they think is important.

DeLuca also is the chairman of the state Boxing Commission. He said he would resign from the commission if it interfered with his work as police chief.

He has a bachelor's degree from Springfield College and has been a police officer for 17 years, starting in Miami in 1982. He served in Miami for five years and was on the department's SWAT team for three of those years. He came to Boston in 1987 and was promoted to sergeant in 1992.

He lived in Dorchester before moving to Miami. For the last eight years, he has lived in Whitman with his wife and five children.

Longo said he hopes to appoint a new chief within a week.